

REMARKS

Claims 2-10 and 12-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments merely cancel claims; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

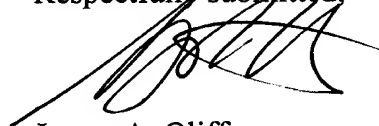
Applicants thank Examiner Lesniewski for the indication that claims 2-10 and 12-24 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,195 to Herz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,247 to Payton. This rejection is respectfully traversed, but rendered moot by cancellation of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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